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IN MEMORIAM

Richard W. Heard

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Professor Dr. Richard Willis Heard, a longtime and outstanding collaborator of the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History of Bucharest, passed away on November 2, 2022.

Richard was born on February 14, 1939 in Savannah, Georgia (USA). He was a graduate of Savannah Country Day School and attended the University of Georgia, receiving his BS and MS degree in Zoology. He received his PhD degree in Biology at the University of Southern Mississippi (1976). He worked for more than 35 years at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (The University of Southern Mississippi), passing through various hierarchical steps, up to that of Head of the Invertebrate

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Zoology Section. He was drawn to know the marine invertebrates of the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and western Atlantic Ocean. His research focused primarily on the study of peracarid crustaceans. Also he mentored many students and young researchers specializing in marine biology.

With an open and benevolent nature, Richard Heard was generous in sharing material from his personal collections with carcinologists of research institutions from various countries, including Romania. The latter collaboration began in 1978 with Prof. Dr. Mihai Băcescu, Member of the Romanian Academy and director of the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History. In appreciation, in 1979 M. Băcescu published a paper in which he described a new species of cumacean crustaceans, which he dedicated to Richard W. Heard ("*Heteroleucon heardi* n. sp. from the Mexican Gulf"). The abstract of this paper states: *In the material from the Gulf of Mexico sent by Dr. Richard W. Heard, a number of species proved to be new to science. One of these…we dedicate to Heard, who collected it.*

Later, a good opportunity for the carcinologists of "Grigore Antipa" Museum came from Dr. Heard, who had initiated a large-scale program on the study of the crustacean fauna of the Gulf of Mexico and the adjacent waters, a geographical area whose diversity was not well known. Therefore in 1997, one of us (I. P.) was invited to collaborate in research regarding the study of the cumaceans from the Gulf of Mexico. For this purpose, he was invited for two weeks to the laboratory in Ocean Springs. The collaboration that began during this short period of time lasted until 2010, when Petrescu and Heard published their eighth and final work. Daniel C. Roccatagliata, R. Vargas and O. Breedy were also co-authors of two of these papers. As a result of the collaboration, one genus and ten species new to science were described.

A year later (1998), one of us (M. G.) received a similar invitation from Richard Heard to study tanaidacean crustaceans. Richard had some extremely interesting specimens of these peracarids, some of which had been received for study from Australia. In October 1999, Guțu worked in the laboratory in Ocean Springs for two weeks. The results of the collaboration consisted in the joint publication of two papers, one on the tanaidaceans of the Gulf of Mexico and one on a new family of apseudomorph tanaidaceans from Australian waters, out of which eight taxa new to science were described (one family, two genera and five species).

In summary, as a result of the collaboration between Dr. Richard W. Heard and the two carcinologists of "Grigore Antipa" Museum, ten scientific papers were published, in which 19 taxa new to science were described (a family, three genera and 15 species). Some of the type material from these studies is stored in the collections of the museum at Bucharest.

For both his contributions to the study of crustaceans, and also as a sign of gratitude for the sharing of material for study, the specialists of the "Grigore Antipa" Museum dedicated to Dr. Richard W. Heard a number of five new species to science, giving each the specific epithet *heardi* (listed below).

At the same time, as a recognition of his merits in enriching the museum's collections, the scientific council of the museum, at Modest Guțu's proposal, awarded

Richard *the diploma and medal commemorating 100 years since the appointment of Dr. Grigore Antipa to the management of the museum*. This distinction was handed to him by Dr. Modest Guțu, in the presence of the director of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Prof. Dr. Jay Grimes, and a journalist who wrote about this event in a local newspaper.

With Dr. Richard W. Heard's passing, the scientific community has lost a valuable zoologist-carcinologist and the "Grigore Antipa" Museum has lost an invaluable friend.

Deepest condolences to his family.

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Ocean Springs, 1999. The moment of the handing the commemorative medal (from the left to the right: Prof. Dr. Jay Grimes, Prof. Dr. Richard Heard, Dr. Modest Guțu).

The medal awarded to Dr. Richard W. Heard by the scientific council of the "Grigore Antipa" Museum.

New species dedicated to Dr. Richard W. Heard by the carcinologists of "Grigore Antipa" Museum

Order Cumacea:

- *Heteroleucon heardi* Băcescu, 1979
- *Campylaspis heardi* Muradian-Ciamician, 1980
- *Vemacumella heardi* Petrescu, 2001

Order Tanaidacea:

- *Calozodion heardi* Guțu, 2002
- *Alloleptochelia heardi* Guțu, 2016

New taxa described by Dr. Richard W. Heard in collaboration with the carcinologists of "Grigore Antipa" Museum

Order Cumacea:

New genera: - *Normjonesia* Petrescu & Heard, 2001

New species: - *Almyracuma bacescui* Petrescu & Heard, 2004
- *Cyclaspis breedyae* Petrescu & Heard, 2004
- *Cyclaspis vargasae* Petrescu & Heard, 2004
- *Cumella spinifera* Petrescu & Heard, 2004
- *Leucon andreiae* Petrescu & Heard, 2010
- *Leucon papadopoli* Petrescu & Heard, 2010
- *Leucon raduletzi* Petrescu & Heard, 2010
- *Leucon serafimae* Petrescu & Heard, 2010
- *Normjonesia danieli* Petrescu & Heard, 2001
- *Sympodomma sarahae* Petrescu & Heard, 2005

Order Tanaidacea:
New family: - *Numbakullidae* Guţu & Heard, 2002
New genera: - *Ascumnella* Guţu & Heard, 2002
- *Numbakulla* Guţu & Heard, 2002
New species: - *Ascumnella caymanensis* Guţu & Heard, 2002
- *Discapseudes belizensis* Guţu & Heard, 2002
- *Kudinopasternakia bispinosa* Guţu & Heard, 2002
- *Numbakulla pygmaeus* Guţu & Heard, 2002
- *Sphyrapoides tuberculifrons* Guţu & Heard, 2002

Papers published by Dr. Richard W. Heard in collaboration with the carcinologists of "Grigore Antipa" Museum

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Petrescu, I., Heard, R.W. (2004b). Redescription of *Almyracuma proximoculi* Jones & Burbanck, 1959 (Crustacea: Cumacea: Nannastacidae) and description of a new species, *A. bacescui* n.sp., from the Gulf of Mexico. *Travaux du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle "Grigore Antipa", 47,* 97–109.

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